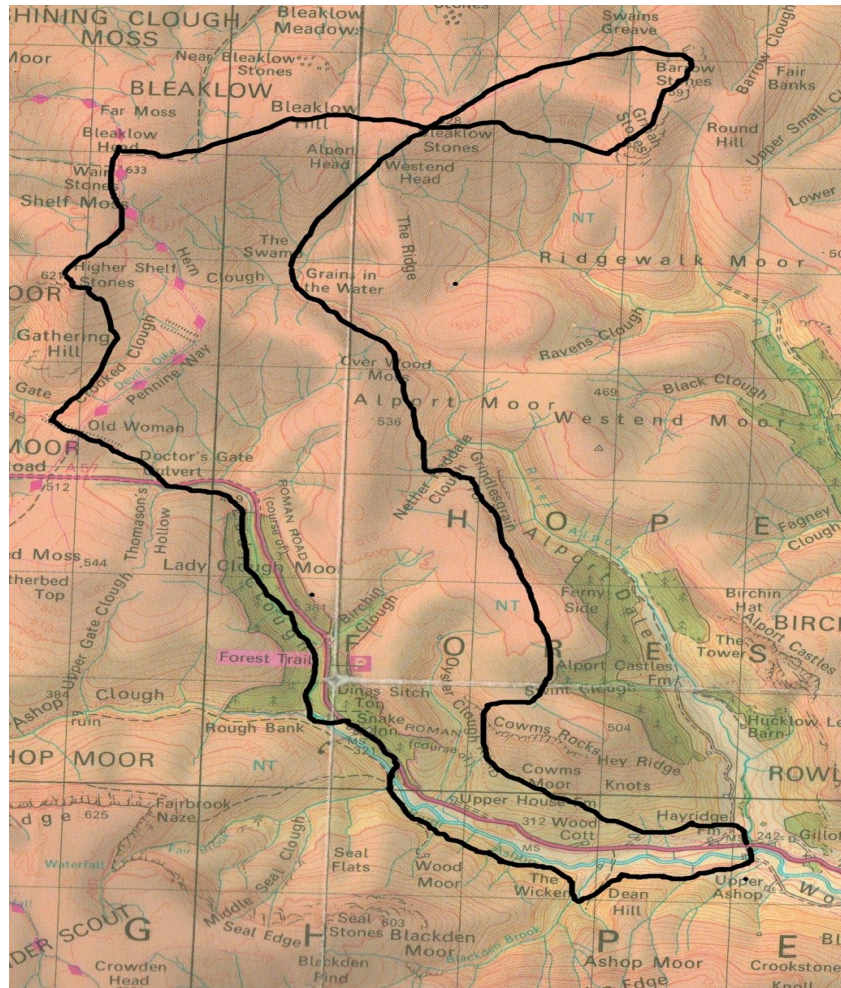


WALK 68.
Alport A.57 Road... Walk 68..
24-1 miles. 6 hours 45 minutes.
Map Dark Peak.



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Start at Alport Bridge (141895). Go L through a gate then walk down to the River and cross the ford or footbridge, then take the worn path to the R giving views down to the River Ashop. Go over a stile side of a gate and go forward to the farm drive, then go R to Upper Ashop Farm. Bear L and go steeply uphill just before the farm, following the boundary wall close on the R. Walk W on a path which is more or less the boundary of open country; to the R look up Alport Dale. It is level now, the river down below, at times cutting deeply below surrounding ground and trees. Walk in and out of small cloughs, one of which is that of Blackden Brook. Bear L into the clough, passing the striking Blackden Barn, a well-made building with touches of elegance

Walk S uphill into the clough passing two signs. Cross the brook as soon as possible and climb up the other side and back on the track on the S side of the Woodlands Valley, going WNW. The path goes in and out of several more small cloughs; Dinas Sitch can be seen clearly on the other side of the valley. Eventually drop down to Fair brook to cross at a delightful spot under a spreading tree and consider the difficulty of crossing after heavy rain-storms. A good path goes off SW up the clough, but do not take it: go R around the brow of the hill, with the river on the R, walk NW along the base of Nungrain to reach the point where the Snake Path enters Ashop Clough on its interesting and long way up to the Pennine Way. However do not take it, but cross the substantial

footbridge erected, says a plaque on it, "by the Sheffield University O. T. C. in 1977 (Royal Engineers Troop) and commence the Hope Woodlands Lady Cough Forest Walk.

Walk N through the woods on a track roughly in line with the A.57 which on this stretch follows the old Roman Road. Eventually leave the forest walk by a ladder stile and walk alongside the stream at the foot of a steep bank. The faint path soon peters out, so climb the bank to the A.57 and walk along it to Doctors Gate Culvert (096928). Go R off the A.57 through the gate where several signs stand: one of them erected by the Peak District (etc.) Society is No 58, dated 1938 proclaiming that this is a Roman Road to Glossop; a NT sign states Doctors Gate. Take the good path up to the ford in several hundred metres. Then walk along the Roman Road, paved for much of the way (A way to see how a Roman Road was constructed), going NW up to Old Woman on the Pennine Way (090933).

Go from here not on the Pennine Way but go 100 metres on the track to Glossop, then go R on a worn path walking NE with Crooked Clough below on the L providing good views in fine weather. At a suitable point where the clough is narrow and shallow, cross it and walk uphill on the nose of the hill where, on the L, the land falls away to White Clough. From the Trig Point, walk NE back to the Pennine Way, passing on the way the remains of a wartime wreck: a crashed plane (Super Fortress?) the aeroplane gets smaller and smaller with taking parts away. On reaching the Pennine Way, bear L and walk to Bleaklow Head; at this point, turn and walk E to Bleaklow Stones (112965), following stakes helpfully placed along the route. The view E from the stones shows the saucer-shaped valley of the Upper Deep Grain and West End Head. A good path runs on high ground to Grinah Stones; a prominent shoulder that stands against the sky. Take this path and note to the S the cloughs of the Westend and Deep grain that cut down to the Westend Valley. Grinah Stones are reached at 130962.

The view takes in Grinah Grain to the S and Round Hill to the E, and the far reaches of Ronksley Moor from which several streams flow down E into the Derwent. Walk then NE to Barrow Stones (134970). Then turn E and walk to Bleaklow Stones to cross the path walked preciously. From there go S down over the edge to Alport Head and find an intermittent path that goes down S roughly parallel to the stream. In fine weather the Ridge can be used as a marker: keep this to the L. to the R (W) can be seen the prominent New Fork Grain and Far Fork Grain, and beyond that, Hern Clough. The saucer shape of the Upper Alport is clearly seen. Descend to the confluence of two streams in the area of grans in the Water; this is a suitable point to cross the water and begin to climb the hill to the S. a faint path leads gently up the S bank of the Alport. The walk is now on the W side of the River Alport; below on the L the Alport Valley grows deeper. The path here, however, will not at any point along its length improve beyond its present narrow width, hardly wide enough for sheep.

As the walk is progressed, the view down the Alport changes; sharp spurs interlock; the river seems further away. It curves prominently and passes under an outcrop of rock on the N side just before reaching the first of the waterfalls; these are striking. Enter a minor clough, then a second: Upper Reddale Clough. There is no doubt when Nether Reddale Clough is reached as a huge cleft running SW-NE. as the hillside is rounded the foreground is seen steadily filling with the widening river valley, its distant banks covered with trees; the Castles taking on a sharper focus. Look back to see the second waterfall just below Glethering Clough.

The faint path is no longer a trustworthy guide; keep to the high ground so that the plantation lies well to the L. go around the head of Swint Clough then cut S across the moor so as to reach Cowms Rocks at their most westerly point. (122905). Then drop down alongside a wall towards Oyster Clough. The wall comes to a corner to then go L through a gateway and follow a wall, on the R, go up to another gate and a wooden fence to cross it by means of large stones. The well-worn path goes through a field to a gate; 50 metres above, on the L is a wooden stile that leads over a fence. Proceed to a ladder stile and a sign to open country; then on to stone steps cemented into a wall at the side of a gate. Pass Blackden View Farm, and there are two more good ladder stiles to take before passing through Hayridge Farm where the Romans once trod, and out on the other side for 100 metres before cutting down to the A.57 via a step stile, a ladder stile and a final stile before reaching the start.